

F B I

Date: 1/24/73

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-NEW) (P)

RE: CHANGED (IO)
UNSUB, aka
"A Bereaved Friend";
JOHNNY CARSON - VICTIM
EXTORTION

OO: Los Angeles

interoffice

Title is marked changed[^] to set forth title as "UNSUB, aka 'A Bereaved Friend'; JOHNNY CARSON - VICTIM; EXTORTION". Title carried in referenced Washington Field teletype as "UNSUB; TELEGRAM TO MR. ED MC MAHON, NBC STUDIO, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA - VICTIM".

Re Los Angeles telcall to Washington Field 1/23/73, and Washington Field teletype to Los Angeles dated 1/23/73.

See Index

[redacted] Broadcast Facilities and Operations, National Broadcasting Company, Inc. (NBC), 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Burbank, California, advised SA RICHARD M. WOOLF on 1/22/73, that NBC had just learned that on Sunday, 1/21/73, the NBC mail room had received a telegram addressed to "ED MCMAHON", announcer on the JOHNNY CARSON "Tonight" Show, that contained a possible threat to Mr. CARSON. The telegram was delivered to the "Tonight" Show production office, NBC, on 1/22/73, as routine mail and was referred to [redacted]

[redacted] the "Tonight" Show

REC 44 *WDA* **MLT-14** *N 9* **55425-1** *JA 30 1973*

[redacted] noted that the telegram was dated Washington, D.C., 1/20/73, and was delivered to the NBC mail room on the morning of 1/21/73. The telegram is as follows:

- ② - Bureau (AM)
1 - Washington Field (Info) (AM)

2 - Los Angeles
RMW/kam
58 FEB 6 1973

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

LA 9-NEW

"NBC BUBK
LYC061(1409)(2-146320E020)PD 01/20/73 1409—
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP
ZCZC 2022449876 TDMT WASHINGTON DC 36 01-20 0209P EST
PMS ED MCMAHON, DLR
CARE NBC STUDIOS
BURBANK LOS ANGELES CO-CA

DEAR ED STICK CLOSE TO YOUR BOSS TONIGHT HE MIGHT
NEED YOUR HELP
PS I WAS PLANNING TO SEND A HUNDRED YEARS OLD BOTTLE
OF SCOTCH BUT THEY CAN'T TRANSMIT IT OVER THE WIRES -
SHORT CIRCUITED
A BEREAVED FRIEND".

[] advised CARSON frequently makes humorous
comments on the "Tonight" Show about MC MAHON's drinking
habits, and the statement in the telegram concerning scotch
probably was intended as a reference to this.

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[] said NBC probably would not have been
concerned about instant telegram had Mr. CARSON not been the
recent victim of an extortion attempt which resulted in the
arrest of one [] by the Los Angeles Police
Department (LAPD), on 10/13/72. (Details of this local extortion
case were set forth in Los Angeles teletype to the Bureau dated
10/15/72, captioned [] ET AL; JOHNNY CARSON -
VICTIM. EXTORTION", Los Angeles file 9-4929, Bufile 9-54989).

[] pointed out that the time element mentioned in
instant telegram had passed before the telegram had come to the
attention of NBC, noting that the telegram, stating "stick close
to your boss tonight", was dated 1/20/73.

The provisions of the Federal Extortion Statute
and the general policy of the FBI in handling extortion
matters were explained to [] and to []
[] mentioned above. [] said he would advise
Mr. CARSON and Mr. MC MAHON of the receipt of the telegram.
[] said he also would advise LAPD of the receipt of
the telegram and ask that routine patrol of Mr. CARSON's
residence be increased.

[] both advised that they
had no suspects in instant case. They advised no similar
telegram or communication had been received by NBC or Mr.
CARSON.

LA 9-NEW

AUSA [redacted] Los Angeles, was advised of the above facts on 1/23/73, by SA WOOLF. [redacted] said the language of the telegram did not appear to constitute a prosecutable violation within the purview of the Federal Extortion Statute; however, he said he would hold his prosecutive opinion in abeyance pending inquiry concerning the identity of the sender.

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[redacted]
[redacted] advised on 1/23/73, that [redacted]
[redacted]

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[redacted] Robbery-Homicide Division, LAPD, was telephonically advised on 1/23/73, of the receipt and contents of the telegram. [redacted] was also furnished the opinion of the AUSA.

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By communication dated 1/23/73, the Washington Field Office advised that [redacted]

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[redacted] advised [redacted]
[redacted] telephone in Washington, D.C., telephone number 244-9876.

[redacted] revealed this number is issued to a pay telephone booth located at People's Drug Store, 5550 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

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Subsequent contact with [redacted] revealed since a pay booth involved in this matter, [redacted]
[redacted]

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On 1/24/73, AUSA [redacted] was advised of the information from Washington Field as set forth above. He stated that in view of the vagueness of the threat he would not consider prosecution of this matter in Federal Court.

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LA 9-NEW

[redacted] at NBC were advised of the opinion
of AUSA [redacted] as well as Lt. [redacted] LAPD.

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Los Angeles will confirm the opinion of AUSA
[redacted] by separate communication.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-4998)(C)

SUBJECT: CHANGED

DATE: 3/20/73

JOHNNY CARSON - VICTIM
EXTORTION

OO: LA

The title of this case, formerly carried as "UNSUB, aka 'A Bereaved Friend;' JOHNNY CARSON - VICTIM" has been marked changed to show the name of subject as [REDACTED] as contained in information furnished by Western Union, Washington, D.C.

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 1/24/73 and WFO airtel dated 3/6/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of an LHM concerning captioned subject dated as above.

The confidential source mentioned in the LHM is [REDACTED]

Interviews at Los Angeles were conducted by SA RICHARD M. WOOLF.

It will be noted [REDACTED] advised Western Union that on Inauguration Day the subject had sent seventeen telegrams to a number of people. These people were not further identified. Because of the subject's alleged mental condition and because these telegrams were sent on Inauguration Day, it is possible they were sent to public officials under the cognizance of the Secret Service and that the Secret Service might have some interest in the subject. On this basis, the Bureau may desire to disseminate a copy of the enclosed LHM to Secret Service for information.

2- Bureau (Encls.-3) ENCLOSURE
1- Los Angeles
RMW:fet
(3)

REC-73
MCT-31

9-55425-2

3 MAR 26 1973

57 APR 2 1973
ICC/SS
TICKLER EX-111
3/30/73



LA 9-4998

One copy of LHM furnished Secret Service locally and
to the USA, Los Angeles, to confirm the opinion of AUSA.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONIn Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 20, 1973

Director
United States Secret Service
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20220RE: b6
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Dear Sir:

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual or organization believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning protective responsibilities, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

1. ☒ Threats or actions against persons protected by Secret Service.
2. ☐ Attempts or threats to redress grievances.
3. ☐ Threatening or abusive statement about U. S. or foreign official.
4. ☐ Participation in civil disturbances, anti-U. S. demonstrations or hostile incidents against foreign diplomatic establishments.
5. ☐ Illegal bombing, bomb-making or other terrorist activity.
6. ☐ Defector from U. S. or indicates desire to defect.
7. ☐ Potentially dangerous because of background, emotional instability or activity in groups engaged in activities inimical to U. S.

Photograph ☐ has been furnished ☐ enclosed ☒ is not available.

Very truly yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s))
U. S. Secret Service - Los Angeles

Enclosure(s)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

March 20, 1973

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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[redacted]
[redacted] Broadcast Facilities and Operations, National Broadcasting Company, Inc. (NBC), 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Burbank, California, advised on January 22, 1973, that the NBC mail room had received a telegram on Sunday, January 21, 1973, addressed to "Ed McMahon," announcer on the Johnny Carson "Tonight" Show, which contained a possible threat to Mr. Carson. The telegram was delivered to the "Tonight" Show production office, NBC, on January 22, 1973, as routine mail and was referred to [redacted] for handling by [redacted] the "Tonight" Show.

[redacted] noted that the telegram was dated Washington, D.C., January 20, 1973, and read as follows:

"DEAR ED STICK CLOSE TO YOUR BOSS TONIGHT HE MIGHT
NEED YOUR HELP
PS I WAS PLANNING TO SEND A HUNDRED YEARS OLD
BOTTLE OF SCOTCH BUT THEY CAN'T TRANSMIT IT OVER
THE WIRES - SHORT CIRCUITED
A BEREAVED FRIEND."

[redacted] advised Carson frequently makes humorous comments on the "Tonight" Show about McMahon's drinking habits and the statement in the telegram concerning Scotch probably was intended as a reference to this.

[redacted] said NBC probably would not have been concerned about this telegram except for the fact Mr. Carson recently had been the victim of a local extortion attempt which resulted in the arrest of one [redacted] by the Los Angeles Police Department on October 13, 1972. [redacted] pointed out the time element in the telegram had passed before the telegram had come to the attention of NBC, noting the telegram was dated January 20, 1973, and contained the statement "stick close to your boss tonight."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

9-55425-2

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[redacted]

The provisions of the Federal Extortion Statute and the general policy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in handling extortion matters were explained to [redacted] and to [redacted]. They both advised that they could furnish no leads as to the identity of the sender of the telegram. They also advised that no similar telegram or communications had been received by NBC or by Mr. Carson.

Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] Los Angeles, California, was advised of the above facts on January 23, 1973. [redacted] said the language of the telegram did not appear to constitute a prosecutable violation within the purview of the Federal Extortion Statute; however, he said he would hold his opinion in abeyance pending inquiry concerning the identity of the sender.

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[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] advised on January 23, 1973, that [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] advised on January 23, 1973, [redacted] to [redacted] telephone number 244-9876 in Washington, D.C.

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 23, 1973, that this telephone number was issued to a pay telephone booth located at People's Drug Store, 5550 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

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[redacted] subsequently advised that since a pay telephone was involved that [redacted] He advised that he would [redacted] He noted [redacted] would take some time.

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[redacted]

On January 24, 1973, Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] was advised of the information developed at Washington, D.C. He stated that in view of the vagueness of the threat that he would not consider prosecution of this matter in Federal Court.

By correspondence dated March 6, 1973, the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation furnished information made available by [redacted]

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[redacted] also made available a copy of a letter [redacted]

[redacted]

In this letter, [redacted] said that [redacted] was experiencing mental problems and had been sending telegrams to various well-known people such as Johnny Carson. He said that on Inauguration Day [redacted] had sent out seventeen telegrams to a number of people. These people were not further identified.

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[redacted] said the purpose of his letter was to request that [redacted] and that he refused to assume this responsibility for [redacted]

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Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] was advised of the above information on March 16, 1973. He stated that it continued to be his opinion the wording of the telegram did not constitute a violation within the purview of the Federal Extortion Statute.